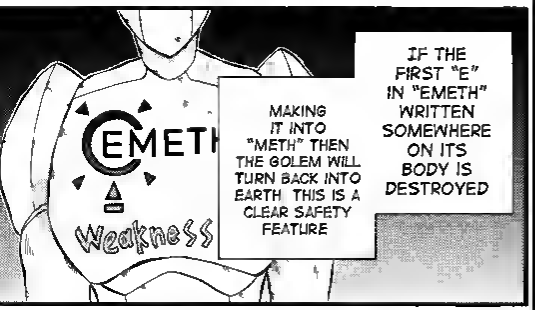
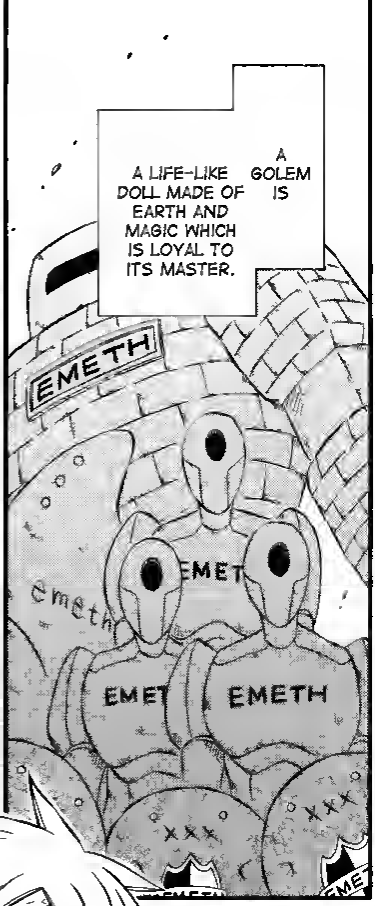

EMETH
Weakness
MAKING IT INTO "METH" THEN THE GOLEM WILL TURN BACK INTO EARTH. THIS IS A CLEAR SAFETY FEATURE
IF THE FIRST "E" IN "EMETH" WRITTEN SOMEWHERE ON ITS BODY IS DESTROYED


A GOLEM IS A LIFE-LIKE DOLL MADE OF EARTH AND MAGIC WHICH IS LOYAL TO ITS MASTER.
EMETH
EMETH
EMETH

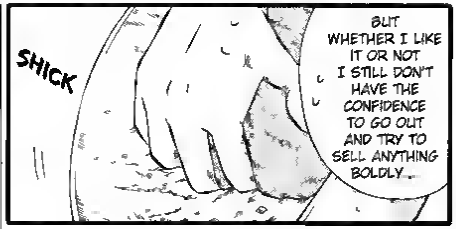
GOLEMS ARE—
THEIR USAGE HAS SPREAD AMONG NOBLES THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD.
THERE ARE MANY TYPES, SUCH AS FOR GUARDING, MANUAL LABOR AND CARE SERVICES
BECAUSE OF ITS GENERIC USER-FRIEND-LINESS

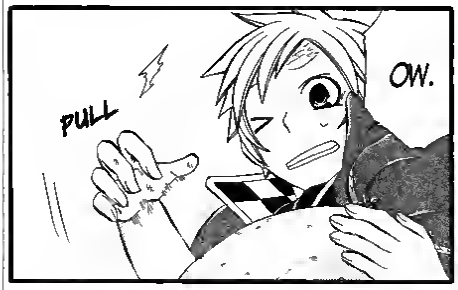
AND THE ONES WHO MAKE GOLEMS ARE
GOLEM MOLDERS.

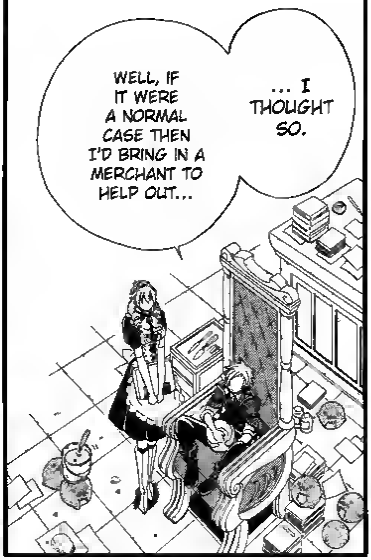
So,
shall we begin---!?
クレイ・ロード
CLAY LORD
土の王
Chapter 3:
The Blood of Earthgaia
Suzumoto Jun

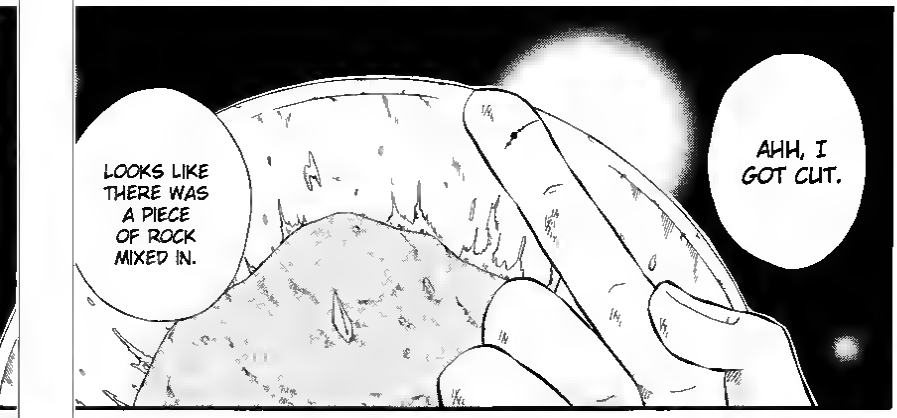
EARTHGAIA ESTATE
ALRIGHT! CHOCO-LATE'S RESET MAINTENANCE IS COMPLETE!!
EMETH
IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU WERE USED CAREFULLY!
EMETH
EMETH
IT WILL BE NICE TO HOLD ONTO A NEW ONE ...
since I have many
BUT THE ONE I WAS ABLE TO BOND WITH WAS YOU.
NONE-THELESS THAT WAS A PRETTY INTERESTING MARQUIS, WASN'T IT?
Changing shape is a meme impossible dream!!
Swish

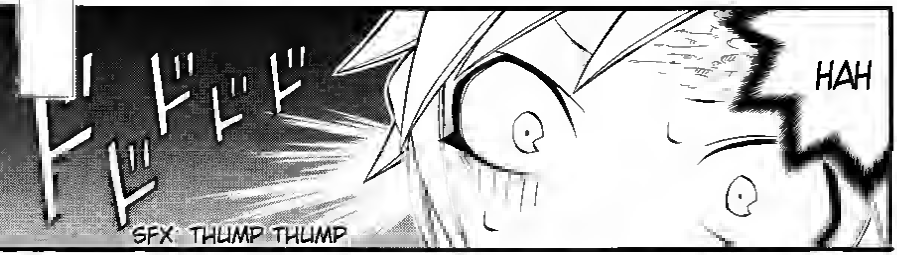
WELL, UNTIL THEN YOU'LL JUST BE MY CLEANING STAFF...
SINCE THIS PLACE IS TOO BIG FOR JUST 4 PEOPLE
SWEEP
SWEEP
IT'D BE GREAT IF MY OTHER CHILDREN WERE ABLE TO MEET WITH A GOOD MASTER TOO.
SWOO
SWOO
I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPECTATIONS OF SELLING THEM BUT I HAVE QUITE A STOCKPILE, DON'T I?
Tap
"CONTINUE FOLLOWING YOUR HEART."
ROZE.
Swish


SHICK
BUT WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT I STILL DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO GO OUT AND TRY TO SELL ANYTHING BOLDLY...


PULL
OW.


WELL, IF IT WERE A NORMAL CASE THEN I'D BRING IN A MERCHANT TO HELP OUT...
... I THOUGHT SO.


LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A PIECE OF ROCK MIXED IN.
AHH, I GOT CUT.


ドドドド
SFX: THUMP THUMP
HAH

WE HEARD ABOUT YOUR INJ-URY!!!
!!!
SLAM
ROAR
OH HI, KUROGANE, SHIROGANE...

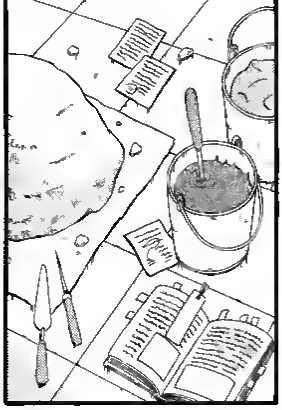
Covered
NO WAY, NO WAY, NO WAY, NO WAY
NO
Sigh
PLEASE REST NOW.
My, my.
CLAY

OI, WASH IT OFF, CLAY-SAMA.!! WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS IMMEDI-ATELY!!
UWAH. WAIT... I ONLY CUT MY FINGER EARLIER--

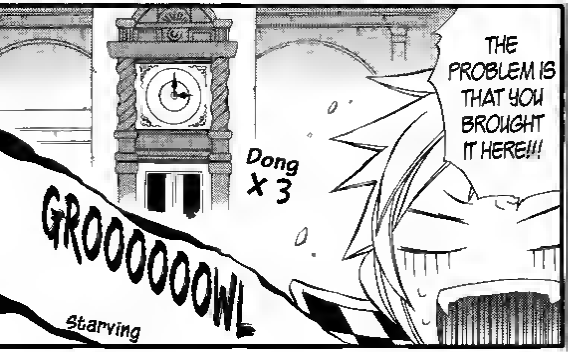
NEGLECTING EVEN A SMALL WOUND IS AN INVITATION FOR INFECTION OR ILLNESS.
MOLDERS, WHO HANDLE A LOT OF DIRT, MUST BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS.
Redo it.
...YOU TWO ARE EXAGGERATING THE SITUATION.
I can take care of this much on my own.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. WE GOT A LITTLE UPSET... BUT,
OKAY, IT IS FINISHED.
TRUTHFULLY, YOU'RE STILL UPSET, AREN'T YOU?
TREATED FOR A BROKEN BONE
YOU REALLY WORRY TOO MUCH, GEEZ...
Redone again.
YOUNG MASTER, YOU'RE OUR IMPORTANT MASTER.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT WE WORRY, RIGHT?

SINCE FOR US GOLEMS...
THE MASTER IS EVERYTHING.
Guuh...
...I KNOW THAT BUT...
...BESIDES, JUST WHAT KIND OF BLOOD DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE...?
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?
...THEY WEREN'T BEING OVER-PROTECTIVE AFTER ALL?

CRASH
Yawn~
I'M A LITTLE TIRED.
Mix
Mix

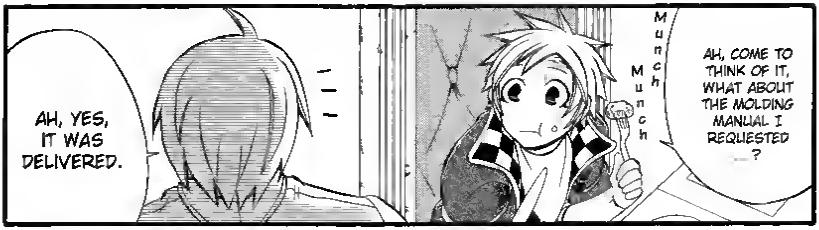


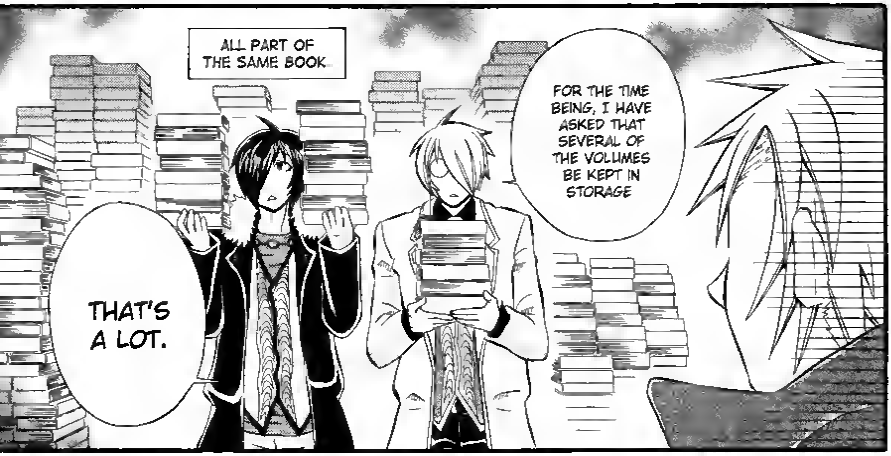
ARE YOU SLEEPY!?

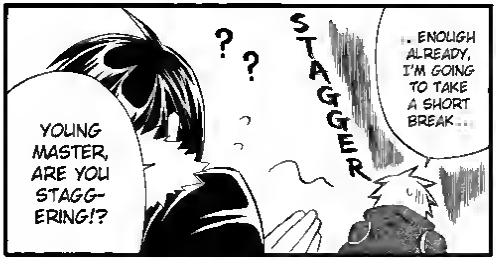

THE PROBLEM IS THAT YOU BROUGHT IT HERE!!!
Dong x 3
GROOOOOOWL
Starving

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING TO WHAT I SAID BEFORE!!?
THE BED WOULDN'T FIT THROUGH THE DOOR.
Efficient
SO IF WE USE THE WALL THEN LATER WE CAN FIX IT.
Why did you do that!?

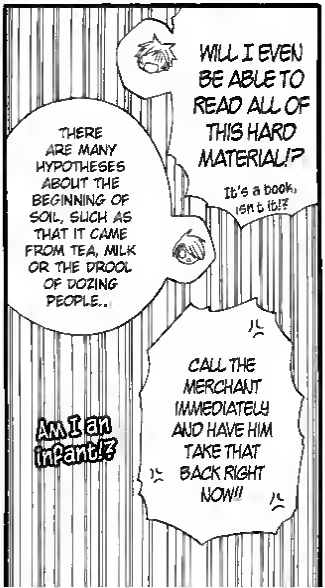
WASN'T IT JUST TEA TIME!?!
And there's sure... a lot of it. (・ω・)
BUT, YOUNG MASTER, YOU'RE FEELING HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?
I CAN'T COOK.
Swish
Swish
BUT, I CAN SERVE YOU, SEE?
Serving
...HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY ILL WILL...
SEEMS I WON'T BE ABLE TO EAT DINNER THOUGH.
And it's so delicious
Munch
Munch


AH, COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT ABOUT THE MOLDING MANUAL I REQUESTED...?
Munch Munch
AH, YES, IT WAS DELIVERED.


FOR THE TIME BEING, I HAVE ASKED THAT SEVERAL OF THE VOLUMES BE KEPT IN STORAGE
ALL PART OF THE SAME BOOK.
THAT'S A LOT.


...ENOUGH ALREADY, I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHORT BREAK...
STAGGER
? ?
YOUNG MASTER, ARE YOU STAGG-ERING!?

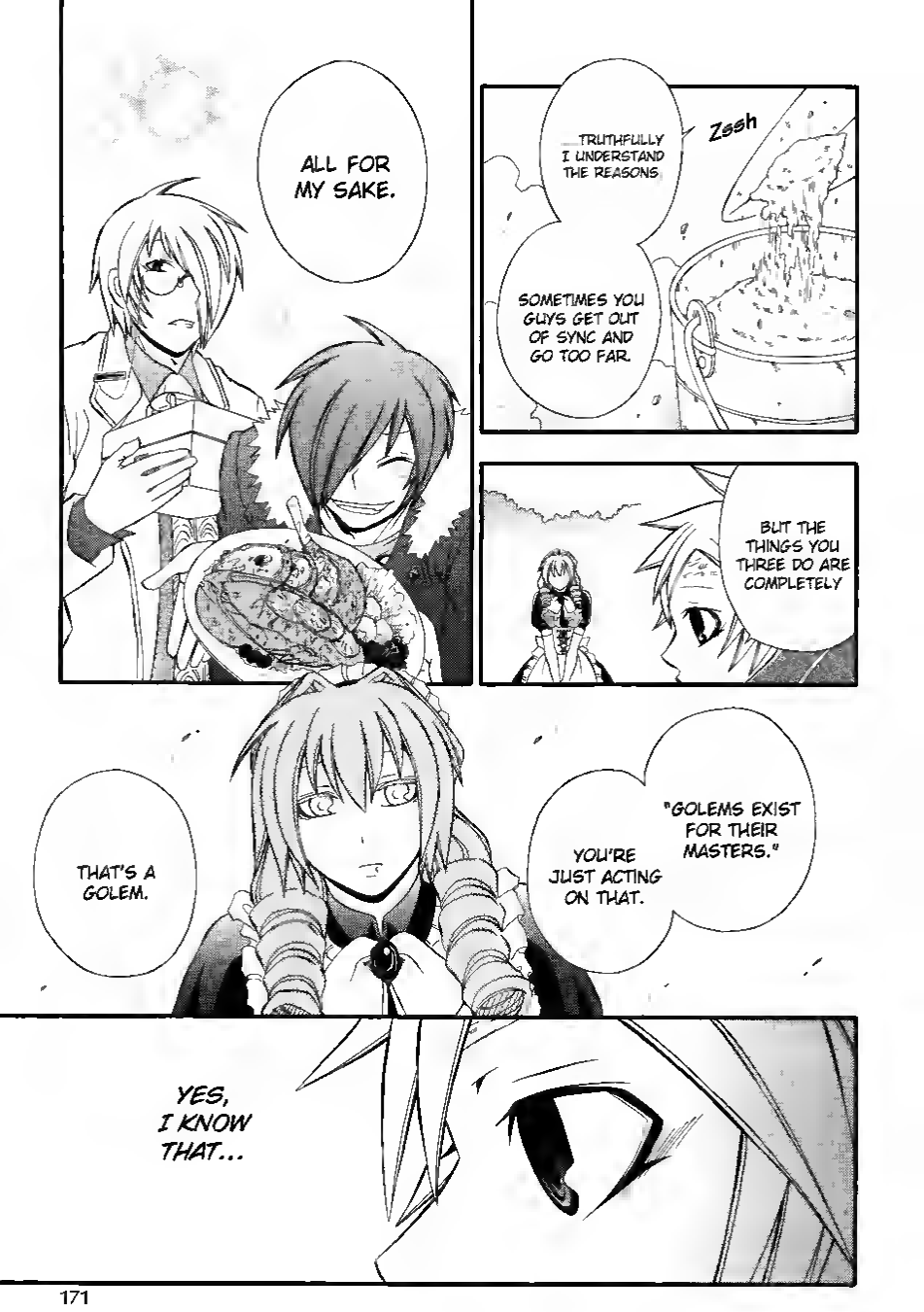
SHALL I CARRY YOU ON MY BACK?


WILL I EVEN BE ABLE TO READ ALL OF THIS HARD MATERIAL!?
It's a book, isn't it!?
THERE ARE MANY HYPOTHESES ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF SOIL, SUCH AS THAT IT CAME FROM TEA, MILK OR THE DROOL OF DOZING PEOPLE..
CALL THE MERCHANT IMMEDIATELY AND HAVE HIM TAKE THAT BACK RIGHT NOW!!
Am I an infant!?

うおお
WAIL
KNOCK
KNOCK
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY BUT I'M SORRY!!
I HAVE THE AFTER MEAL TEA WAITING, CLAY-SAMA!!
Shirogane and Kurogane may not enter
In the process of filtering special circumstances.
by Clay.
YOUNG MAAAA-AAASTER
UWAAAAAHN
GL-EAM

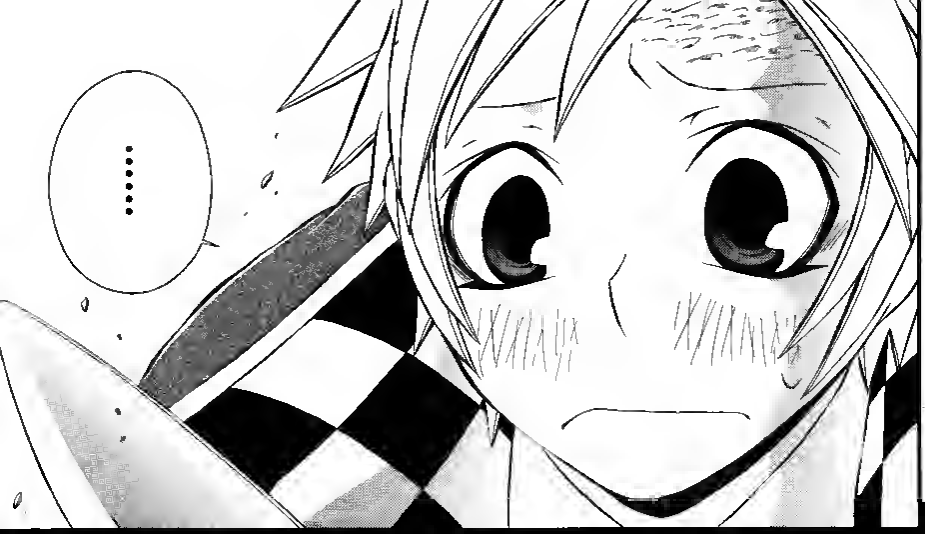
GRIN
...GEEZ, AM I JUST A BABY OR SOMETHING!?
...NO, WELL, I ALWAYS GET THAT FEELING BUT...
SPIN

WHAT WAS WITH THAT EXTREME EXPLANATION?
No, it was unthinkable
LIKE THIS... WILL I BE ABLE TO SUCCEED THEM...?
Groan
Zssh
TOP QUALITY
A SWAN.
SOME DAYS I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO MAKE A CHAMBER POT.
ONCE I'VE CALMED DOWN WE'LL GO BACK IMMEDIATELY.
Shake
Shake
SORRY, ROZE. EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE WORK TO DO YOU'RE KEEPING ME COMPANY INSTEAD...


ALL FOR MY SAKE.
TRUTHFULLY I UNDERSTAND THE REASONS.
SOMETIMES YOU GUYS GET OUT OF SYNC AND GO TOO FAR.
Zssh
BUT THE THINGS YOU THREE DO ARE COMPLETELY
"GOLEMS EXIST FOR THEIR MASTERS."
YOU'RE JUST ACTING ON THAT.
THAT'S A GOLEM.
YES, I KNOW THAT...

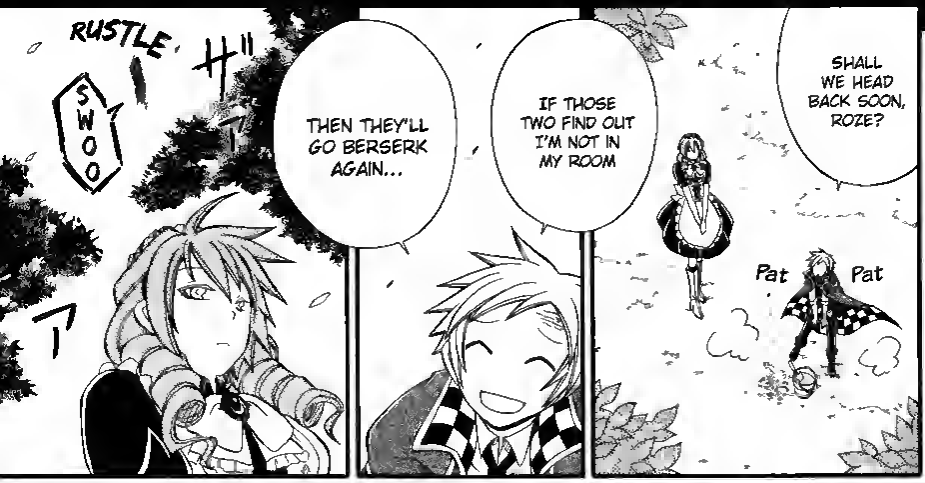
SO THERE'S NO MEASURING STICK ON WHICH YOU CAN GAUGE THEIR VALUES OR STANDARDS.
THEY AREN'T PEOPLE.
SFX: CRASH
どっかーん
MINE MIGHT TAKE IT A LITTLE TOO FAR THOUGH.
THOUGH THAT DIFFERENCE MORE OR LESS DISAPPEARS IF YOU USE THEM FOR A LONG TIME WITH CARE.
SOMETIMES GOLEMS HAVE A HARD TIME MUTUALLY UNDER-STANDING THEIR MASTERS.
EMETH
MAS TER
AND TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF ME.
I KNOW THEY ARE WORRYING ABOUT ME
WELL, I COULD DO THAT TOO, BUT...
SHOULD I TELL THEM TO NOT FOLLOW ME SOMETIMES...?

EVEN NOW I...



STILL HAVEN'T GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO BEING TREATED LIKE I'M... IMPORTANT?

THAT'S RIGHT... I DON'T HAVE SUCH A DESPICABLE REASON----



HUH?
BLIK
ROZE!!?
BLIKN
KII
KII
KII

SWAY
ROGE!! HOLD ON... ARE YOU OKAY!? LET ME SEE!!
IF THE LETTERS ARE OKAY THEN EVEN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPAIR HER..
BUT, IF SHE FIGHTS ANYMORE THAN THIS IT'S POSSIBLE THE WOUND WILL WIDEN AND SHE'LL CRUMBLE ..
SHE DIDN'T FORESEE THAT ATTACK AT ALL AND THE DAMAGE IS IMMENSE...!!
THANK GOODNESS, THE "EMETH" IS OKAY!!
EMETH
WHIP
TWIRL
WHAT IS THIS GOLEM!?
WHAT IN THE HELL IS GOING ON!?
GSSH

!?
SFX: GRAB
DAMN... IT'S USELESS...!!
BIKLIK
SO WHO IN THE WORLD---!?
THE GOLEMS ARE MOVING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR MASTER'S ORDERS ..

SFX: BLIK
SFX: BLIK
SFX: BLIK
THIS IS BAD!! SHE'S CRACKING...
STOP, ROZE!! DON'T MOVE!!
HALT
!!
GRUMBLE
RUSTLE
!?
HO! HO! HO!
NICE TO MEET YOU, CURRENT EARTHGAIA FAMILY HEAD.

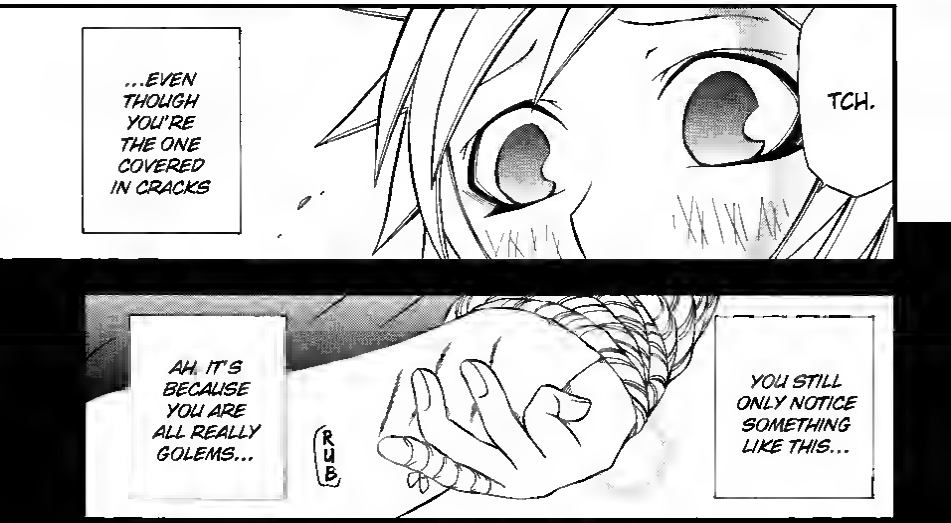
I AM THE GOLEM DEALER, GLAUCO DOTTO.
I AM PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
Ho
Ho
Ho
WELL, MY BUSINESS ISN'T VERY WELL KNOWN.
WHAT...? I DEAL IN GOLEM MOLDING TOOLS AND INGREDIENTS.
I HEARD A SECRET MEDICINE APPEARED AND HAD BEEN CIRCULATING AROUND THE UNDERGROUND.
...! HE'S A BLACK MARKET DEALER?
THE REASON YOU CAME HERE... ISN'T TO BUY MY CHOCOLATE, IS IT?
For now I'll listen to him.

IT HAS A MAGIC UNPARALLELED IN ALL OF GOLEM MOLDING.
IT'S FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY OF EARTH, "EARTHGAIA'S BLOOD"!!!
WHEN MAKING A GOLEM ONE CAN SIMPLY ADD SOME OF THE MYSTERIOUS MEDICINE INTO THE DIRT
AND THEN WHEN ONE USES THE FINISHED PRODUCT THE LEVEL WILL RAPIDLY INCREASE.
IT'S SO VALUE EVEN GOLD PALES IN COMPARISON!!
NOW THEN, SHALL WE TRAVEL TOGETHER?

...PROPERLY SPEAKING I WOULD LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON ..
YOUR TWO REMAINING GUARDS AS WELL...
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
AS EXPECTED, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE ALL THREE OF THEM AS OPPONENTS AT ONE TIME THOUGH
Sulk
THE POSTHUMOUS WORKS OF THE TWIN MOLDERS WHO HELD THE HISTORIC HIGHEST LEVEL IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, "TWIN CROWNS",
CAN BE MISTAKEN FOR HUMANS. THEY HAVE EXQUISITE, SMOOTH MOVEMENTS.. AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN PERSONALITIES.
THEY ARE THE GOD-LIKE, BEST WORKS THAT WERE MADE BY UTILIZING THE POWER IN THE "BLOOD".

...HE'S SURPRI-SINGLY CALM.
HOWEVER... THIS HERE IS THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF THOSE "TWIN CROWNS".
EVEN IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS...
I THOUGHT HE'S HAD A SHELTERED UPBRINGING THAT HE WOULD BE REACTING MORE EMOTIONALLY.
I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE WHAT A BRAT LIKE THIS IS CAPABLE OF...
OR, COULD IT BE THE PRIDE HE'S DEVELOPED BECAUSE OF BEING CAGED ALL HIS LIFE?
. CALM DOWN DON'T GET FLUSTERED
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN.
GRIND
BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP
IF I DON'T STAY CALM THEN I WON'T LIVE THROUGH THIS.
---I HAVE TO SET MY MIND ON NOTHING EXCEPT SURVIVAL...
I'LL WAIT FOR MY CHANCE...
PINCH
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
FOR NOW TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE SITUATION.
CLATTER
IF I DON'T HAVE POWER THEN I'LL HAVE TO DO IT ANOTHER WAY
CLATTER
BA-DUMP
IF I DO THAT THEN I'LL KEEP LIVING.
!
トン
SFX: BUMP

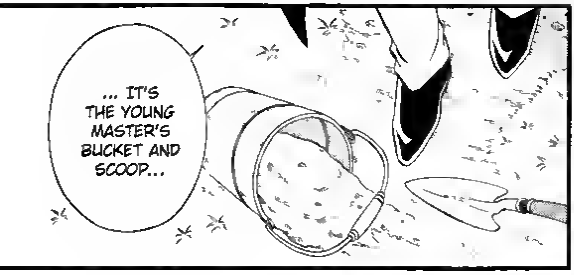

...EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE ONE COVERED IN CRACKS
TCH.
AH, IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE ALL REALLY GOLEMS...
RUB
YOU STILL ONLY NOTICE SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

THIS IS ALSO PRECIOUS

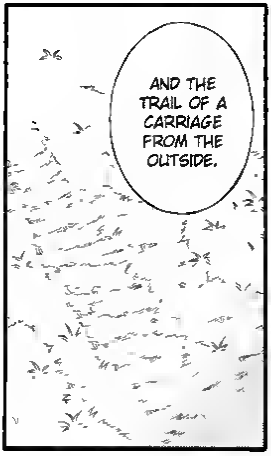
THAT'S MY HIDEOUT.
CLATTER
CRACK
CRACK
IT'S AN OLD CASTLE I WAS ABLE TO BUY FOR CHEAP.
...I WILL DEFINITELY PROTECT ROZE.
AND THE TWO OF US WILL RETURN HOME WITHOUT FAIL!!!

WELCOME TO MY CASTLE.
I HAVE MY SUBORDINATES AND GOLEMS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THIS CASTLE.
I'LL BE SEIZING ALL YOUR WEAPONS AND TOOLS.
YOU SHOULD BE WISE ENOUGH NOT TO DO ANYTHING STRANGE.

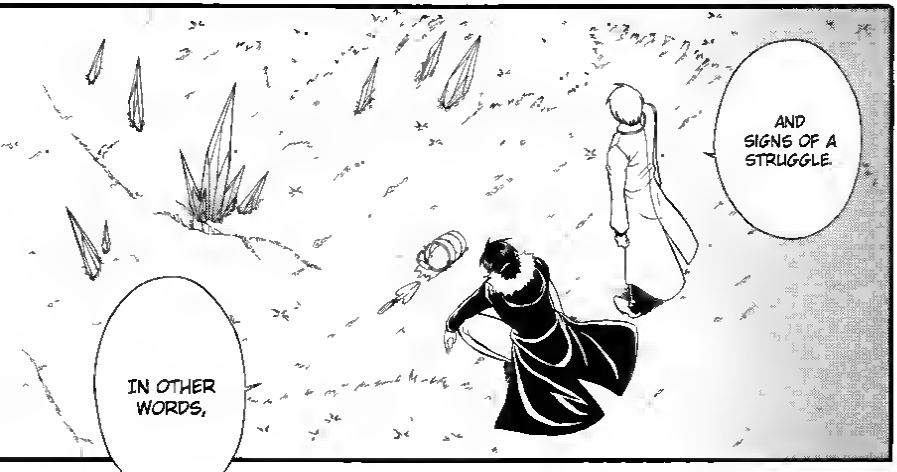
SFX: CLANG
カリーンヤアーン
THOUGH I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO ANYTHING
WHICH SUCH AN UNSTEADY GOLEM.
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW.
...WELL THEN.


... IT'S THE YOUNG MASTER'S BUCKET AND SCOOP...

THE NEXT DAY. EARTHGAIA ESTATE.


AND THE TRAIL OF A CARRIAGE FROM THE OUTSIDE.

AND ROZE'S CRYSTAL SPEARS.


AND SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE.
IN OTHER WORDS,

ZERO SUM 9月号 7月27日発売 に続く

TRANSLATOR/CLEANER:
MORBID CHARADE

TYPESETTER/REDRAWS:
WOLF

CROPPER:
GAIKA

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